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1.95 C 731 CU,S, Fayor Sec. Rd-300 July 1865 A November 29, 1939

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES ACTIVITIES IN THE REGIONS

REGION I - Westmoreland Homesteads, Pennsylvania, has cleverly disposed of an annual problem which arose from the fact that hunting was prohibited on project lands leased to the Cooperative Association. This year a Sportsmen's Association was organized which subleased the land from the Co-op, posted a cash forfeit to indemnify the Co-op for any damages resulting from hunting, and opened its membership to homesteaders. In addition to the project acreage, the club also obtained sublease on 1,400 acres from adjacent farmers. Thus a troublesome source of friction has been happily resolved into a cooperative recreational venture.

REGION II - Several boys and girls from Southern Michigan Farms have received Kellogg Foundation Scholarships for the short courses in agriculture given at Michigan State College.

The services of an NYA recreational director have been secured at Ironwood Homesteads, Michigan, to assist with boys' activities after school hours and on Saturdays.

A number of the young people residing on the Ironwood Homesteads Project are continuing with their education since graduating from high school. Two are attending Ironwood Junior College, one Michigan State College, one U. S. Aviation Service, two have entered nurses' training and one is attending Ironwood Business College.

Twenty men in Ironwood Homesteads have organized a cribbage club which meets once a week.

LU Family Relocation. Close cooperation with the SCS is being maintained in relocating LU families. At the time new options are taken on purchase areas an FSA representative assists the families with their relocation plans. If families are financially able to make their own plans when payment is made, no help is extended to them, but if they indicate that they are interested in securing the help of the Farm Security Administration as to the selection of a farm unit and the extension of a loan, this help is given to them with the assistance of the Farm Security Administration field representative and the County RR Supervisors, both from the county in which the family is now residing and from the county to which they plan to move. By helping the family make their plans as soon as possible after accepting the option for the purchase of their land, no time is lost in making satisfactory arrangements and the families involved are able to make the adjustment of a change in residence and the operation of a new farm unit without any period of uncertainty as to just what is going to happen to them. This method is working out most satisfactorily in Wisconsin.

When it is found that the family is unable to continue farm operation because of age or physical condition, the assistance of the County Welfare Department is secured, and together with the FSA field representative, the County RR Supervisor, and the Director of the Welfare Department, the best possible arrangements are made for the family.

Readjustment activities for families who must leave project units. Attention is being given to the operators of form units who have been working the farms for the past two crop years and have accumulated delinquencies both as to real estate and rehabilitation loan payments. These cases are being reviewed with the community manager or county RR supervisor and the home management supervisor by both the regional family selection and farm management staffs. A farm management advisor has recently

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been assigned to the RP projects to assist the community managers in developing farm plans. It is being found necessary to make some adjustments in occupancy of the farms, since in certain instances both the operator and the community manager are in accord that it is to the operator's benefit to make a change. All changes will be made in sufficient time to allow for the location of other farms, and the adjustments will be made so that the rehabilitation loans can be retained. This readjustment will enable the operators to acquire equity in their personal property and establish themselves before again taking on the purchase of land. It seems clear that the combination of real estate and rehabilitation loan payments is too much of an undertaking for some of the operators.

REGION III - Osage Farms, Missouri, and Scioto Farms, Onio, held local fairs in October.

REGION IV - The weaving room at <u>Cumberland Homesteads</u>, Tennessee, is a very busy place these days. Draperies, suit material, rugs, scarfs, bags and pot holders are being woven in anticipation of the approaching Christmas season.

Fall house cleaning has brought increased business to the Rummage Room opened by the Women's Club at <u>Cumberland Homesteads</u>. Some real bargains are offered. Hats are priced at ten cents, slippers range from five cents to fifty cents a pair, slightly worn shirts for men and boys sell at five cents each.

REGION V - Nurse Shamburg of Gees Bend, Alabama, attended the National Negro Public Health Conference held in Washington and talked on the Bend's health program.

Bankhead Farms, Alabama, won second prize for their community exhibit at the County Fair.

Ashwood Plantation, South Carolina, continues to enjoy the county WPA library service. The NYA boys have made markers to be placed all over the project, giving the day and hour of the Book Truck's stop.

Two of the most outstanding girls at Ashwood Plantation, both of whom are accomplished weavers and folk dancers, have entered the State NYA Training School.

REGION VI - The Hallowe'en Carnival sponsored by the P.T.A. at the <u>Plum Bayou Homesteads</u>, Arkansas, was one glorious evening of fun and frolic for people of all ages. One of the attractions of the evening was a movie presented through the courtesy of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. This picture showed many of the sections of natural beauty in Arkansas as well as fish and wild life.

REGION VII - LU Family Relocation. In an earlier bulletin we mentioned that a member of the Region VII staff had been assigned to give full-time attention to the satisfactory relocation of LU families. In a recent report he states, "Considerable headway has been made in organizing into committees representatives from the various agencies and others concerned, so that more satisfactory progress may be expected in the future. This particularly applies to the families being displaced by the new purchase

areas. A better understanding and closer cooperation has resulted from our committee meetings in the counties affected by the program. District and County RR Supervisors are accepting the job of assisting displaced families in finding new homes as a definite part of their work. "We are encouraging families who are classified as eligible for standard loans to contact real estate dealers and to make every effort to assist themselves in finding a new location. To aid them in finding new homes, however, I have given their names with a brief financial statement and family history to the Federal Land Bank, Bank of North Dakota and other agencies. These agencies have already made a number of contacts with these people and I am confident that a number of them will relocate themselves by this method."

Such county committees usually consist of representatives of the

FSA, SCS, WPA, County Welfare Board, the county agent, and other local individuals in a position to give valuable assistance. Following an analysis of the various cases by the committee, some member of the committee is made responsible for attempting to effect the suggested relocation plan. This person reports back to the committee at subsequent meetings, informing them of progress made. If a particular relocation plan is found unworkable or undesirable, a re-discussion of the case concerned takes place and alternative proposals are formulated. The necessities and desires of the families thus are always given due consideration.

REGION VIII - Extension Courses. Three graduate college credit courses have been completed in this regional office during the past year and a fourth is now under way. The first of the series was an extension course in Personnel Problems by the Professor of Psychology at Southern Methodist University. Twenty-eight members of the staff were enrolled for this. Next, arrangements were made with the A & M College of Texas to offer a four hour course in land economics. Eighteen staff members took this course. On the completion of the land economics course the Department of Agricultural Economics agreed to offer their course in Economic Policy for American Agriculture. Seven speakers outside of the FSA program delivered the lectures. These lectures were regarded as having such educational value as to cause the Department of Agricultural Economics to request 100 sets for use in classes at the A & M College. Interest has now turned to cooperatives. A class of 43 has been organized to study the basic principles of cooperatives. Considerable attention will be given to government sponsored cooperatives.

REGION IX - Compers at Agua Fria Migratory Labor Comps have found a cheap means of transportation to and from the fields in which they work. Formerly private cars, sometimes dangerously overloaded, were the only means of transportation. Now, with a bus which was purchased in September with camp funds (\$150.00), many of the campers are enjoying dependable, cheap transportation. Donations by the workers using the bus, plus a small amount of money from the camp fund, have together taken care of all operating expenses.

REGION XII - The children at Bosque Farms School, New Mexico, are receiving early training in good citizenship and the privileges and responsibilities of self government. In the fall the faculty agreed that student participation in the government of the school would be a fine thing. In order to permit this the school was organized much like a city government with a mayor

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and other officers. The new "City Government" drew up a constitution and by-laws and elected officers by secret ballot. The teachers are of the unanimous opinion that the "City Government" has already justified its existence. The students, having set up dosirable standards of conduct for themselves, seem anxious to observe them.

The upper grade pupils at Bosque Farms are responsible for the community's increased interest in the library. These pupils have organized a reading club for the purpose of improving the quality of their leisure time reading. As a result of the club's activities a large number of people have agreed either to denate some good books to the librarian or provide money for the purchase of additional books.

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